(e) Decision to install Fraud Management Control Equipment has been taken which will help in detecting such frauds to some extent.

Branch Post Offices in H.P.

†1563. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prescribed criteria are relaxed for opening of sub-post offices in far-flung, hilly and border State like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions where relaxation is provided;

(c) the number of sub-post-offices to be opened and upgraded in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and whether the target has been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target set for the Tenth Five Year Plan period alongwith the details of the action plan to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) There is already a set of relaxed criteria prescribed for opening of Sub Post Offices in far-flung, hilly and remote areas, including those in H.P., details of which are given in statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The details of targets given for opening/upgrading the Sub Post Offices and those finally opened/upgraded in Himachal Pradesh subject to fulfillment of norms during the Ninth Five Year Plan period are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(e) Targets set out for the Tenth Five Year Plan period are given in Annexure-C. New Post Offices are targeted to be opened each year under Plan scheme subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Statement-II

Details of Sub Post Offices opened/upgraded in Himachal Pradesh During the Ninth Five Year Plan

Year	Target allotted	Target achieved	Name of PO opened/upgraded
1	2	3	4
1997-1998	2	Nil	Nil
1998-1999	1	1	Sultanpur SO Opened (Distt. Kullu)
1999-2000	1	1	IGMC Shimla (Shimla Town)

1	2	3	4
2000-2001	1	1	REC Hamirpur (Hamirpur Town)
2001-2002	Nil	Nil	Nil

ANNEXURE-C

Physical Target of Opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices for each of the Years of the Tenth Five Year Plan

Year	Opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices
2002-03	25
2003-04	20
2004-05	20
2005-06	20
2006-07	15
TOTAL:	100

ISD/STD/Fax Facilities in Assam

†1564. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISD/STD/Fax facilities have been provided in all the exchanges of Assam;

(b) if not, the number of exchanges which have not been provided with these facilities so far; and

(c) the number of exchanges where these facilities are proposed to be provided during the year 2003-04 in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.